

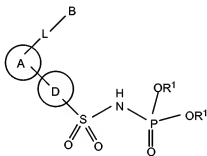
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. Canceled.

42. (Currently amended) A compound of general formula I:



I

wherein:

each R<sup>1</sup> independently represents hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> haloalkyl, phenyl, heteroaryl or phenylC<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, where all phenyl and heteroaryl rings can be optionally substituted with one or more halogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy groups, or both substituents R<sup>1</sup> may be taken together to form a saturated or partially unsaturated 5- or 6-membered ring, which can be optionally fused to a benzene ring;

A represents an imidazole, pyrazole, isoxazole or oxazole, ~~an unsaturated or partially unsaturated 5- or 6-membered ring which can optionally contain from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S,~~ where the substituents L and D are placed on adjacent atoms of ring A, and where additionally A can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents R<sup>2</sup>;

L represents a single bond, -O-, -S- or -NR<sup>3</sup>-;

B represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or a ring selected from phenyl, heteroaryl and C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl, where all said rings can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents R<sup>4</sup>;

D represents phenyl or pyridine, each of which can be optionally substituted with one or more halogens;

the groups A and -SO<sub>2</sub>NHP(O)(OR<sup>1</sup>)<sub>2</sub> are placed on ring D in para position with respect to one another;

each R<sup>2</sup> independently represents halogen, cyano, nitro, carboxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2-4</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2-4</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl, hydroxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> hydroxyalkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylthio, amino, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylamino, C<sub>1-4</sub> dialkylamino, formyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylcarbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy carbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkoxy carbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylcarbonyloxyC<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkylC<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxyC<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkoxyC<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, or two substituents R<sup>2</sup> on the same carbon atom can be taken together to form an oxo group;

R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

each  $R^4$  independently represents halogen, cyano, nitro, carboxy,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl, hydroxy,  $C_{1-4}$  hydroxyalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylthio, amino,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylamino,  $C_{1-4}$  dialkylamino, formyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylcarbonyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy carbonyl or  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkoxy carbonyl, or two substituents  $R^4$  on the same carbon atom can be taken together to form an oxo group, and additionally one of the substituents  $R^4$  can represent a saturated, unsaturated or partially unsaturated 5- or 6-membered ring which can optionally contain from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S and which can be optionally substituted with one or more substituents  $R^5$ ;

each  $R^5$  independently represents halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino,  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  haloalkyl,  $C_{1-4}$  alkoxy or  $C_{1-4}$  alkylcarbonyl, or two substituents  $R^5$  on the same carbon atom can be taken together to form an oxo group; and

heteroaryl in the above definitions represents pyridine, pyrazine, pyrimidine or pyridazine;

or a salt and or solvate thereof.

43. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 42 wherein A ~~represents imidazole, pyrazole, isoxazole, oxazole, thiazole, 2,5-dihydrofuran, thiophene, pyridine, 4H-pyran, cyclopentene, 2,3-dihydrooxazole or 4,5-dihydropyrazole~~ which can be optionally substituted with one to four substituents  $R^2$ .

44. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 43 wherein A ~~represents imidazole, pyrazole, isoxazole or oxazole~~ which can be optionally substituted with one or two substituents R<sup>2</sup>.

45. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 44 wherein A represents imidazole which can be optionally substituted with one substituent R<sup>2</sup>.

46. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein each R<sup>2</sup> independently represents halogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl, or two substituents R<sup>2</sup> on the same carbon atom can be taken together to form an oxo group.

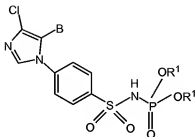
47. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein D represents phenyl optionally substituted with a fluoro atom.

48. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein L represents a single bond.

49. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein B represents phenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups R<sup>4</sup> or B represents cyclohexyl.

50. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein each R<sup>4</sup> independently represents halogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl.

51. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 of formula Id:



Id

wherein:

B represents phenyl optionally substituted with one to three groups R<sup>4</sup>; and

each R<sup>4</sup> independently represents halogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy or C<sub>1-4</sub> haloalkyl.

52. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 51 wherein B represents 3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl.

53. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein each R<sup>1</sup> independently represents hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or phenyl optionally substituted with one or more halogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy groups.

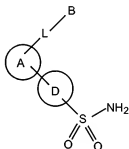
54. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 42 wherein the compound is N-[4-[4-chloro-5-(3-fluoro-4-

methoxyphenyl)imidazol-1-yl]phenylsulfonyl]phosphoramidic acid, or a salt or solvate thereof.

55. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 54 wherein the compound is N-[4-[4-chloro-5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)imidazol-1-yl]phenylsulfonyl]phosphoramidic acid.

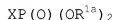
56. (Previously presented) Process for preparing a compound of formula I according to claim 42 which comprises:

(a) when in a compound of formula I each R<sup>1</sup> is different from hydrogen, reacting a sulfonamide of formula II



II

wherein A, L, B and D have the meaning described in claim 42, with a compound of formula III

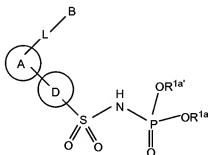


III

wherein X represents H or Cl and wherein each R<sup>1a</sup> independently represents any of the meanings described for R<sup>1</sup> in claim 42 except for hydrogen, in the presence of a base, or

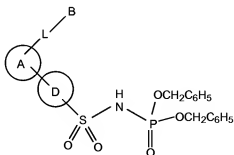
alternatively, reacting a sulfonamide of formula II in which the group  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}_2$  is in anionic form with a compound of formula III;  
 or

(b) when in a compound of formula I each  $\text{R}^1$  represents hydrogen,  
 hydrolyzing a compound of formula Ia'



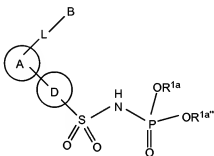
Ia'

wherein A, L, B and D have the meaning described in claim 42 and  
 wherein  $\text{R}^{1a'}$  represents any of the meanings described for  $\text{R}^1$  in  
 claim 42 except for hydrogen and benzyl, or alternatively,  
 hydrogenating a compound of formula Ia''



Ia''

wherein A, L, B and D have the meaning described in claim 42; or  
 (c) when in a compound of formula I one of the substituents  $R^1$  represents hydrogen and the other is different from hydrogen, monodealkylating a compound of formula Ia'''



Ia'''

wherein A, L, B, D and  $R^{1a}$  have the meaning described in claim 42 and wherein  $R^{1a'''}$  represents C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub> haloalkyl or phenylC<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl, where the phenyl group can be optionally substituted with one or more halogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy groups; or  
 (d) transforming, in one or a plurality of steps, a compound of formula I into another compound of formula I.

57. (Previously presented) The process of claim 56, which further comprises reacting the compound of formula I with a base or an acid to give the corresponding addition salt.



58. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 42 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

59. - 61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 59~~ A method for the treatment of diseases mediated by cyclooxygenase-2 which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to claim 42 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein the disease mediated by cyclooxygenase-2 is selected from the group consisting of: pain resulting from surgery or dental surgery; low back and neck pain; headache; toothache; pain associated with cancer; neuralgia; arthritis; degenerative joint diseases; gout; ankylosing spondylitis; tendinitis; pain or inflammation associated with sprains, strains or other traumatisms; synovitis; ~~myositis~~ myositis; dysmenorrhea; inflammatory bowel disease; ocular inflammatory diseases; ~~corneal transplants~~; skin inflammatory diseases; systemic inflammatory processes; bursitis; lupus erythematosus; common cold; rheumatic fever; symptoms associated with influenza or other viral infections; ~~preterm labour~~; asthma; bronchitis;

familial adenomatous polyposis; liver cancer; bladder cancer;  
pancreatic cancer; ovarian cancer; prostate cancer; cervical  
cancer; lung cancer; breast cancer; skin cancer;  
gastrointestinal cancers; ~~cerebral infarction; epilepsy; type I~~  
~~diabetes;~~ dementia; Parkinson's disease; amyotrophic lateral  
sclerosis; and atherosclerosis.